

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 7, with the revised paragraph:

The gas holes 20 formed in the side wall 21 of the outer cover 2 partially face the side wall 11 of the inner cover 1 in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the cover assembly 31 (i.e., a lengthwise direction of the gas sensor 3). Specifically, a top end 121 of the inner cover 1 is located within a range defined between a portion 201 of a perimeter of each of the gas holes 20 closest to the top end ~~of 121~~ 221 of the outer cover 2 (will also be referred to as the top end 201 below) and a portion 202 of the perimeter of each of the gas holes 20 closest to a base end of the outer cover 2 (will also be referred to as the base end 202 below) in the longitudinal direction of the cover assembly 31. Note that the top end 121 may be located within the range between the top end 201 of at least one of the gas holes 20 closest to the top end 221 of the outer cover 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 12, with the revised paragraph:

The distance  $L1$ , as shown in Figs. 2 and 3(a), between the top end 201 of the gas holes 20 of the outer cover 2 and the top end 121 of the inner cover 1 is 0.5mm. The diameter  $R$  of the gas holes 20 in the longitudinal direction of the gas sensor 3 (i.e., a distance between the top end ~~210~~ end 201 and the base end 202) is 6mm. The length  $L1$  and the diameter  $R$  bear the relation of  $L1 \geq 0.95R$ .

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 21, line 17 – page 22, line 1, with the revised paragraph:

We also studied a relation between the response rate of the gas sensor 3 and a difference between the outer diameter  $D1$  of the top end 121 of the inner cover 1 and the outer diameter  $D2$  of the inner cover 1 at a location of the top ends 131 of the gas

holes 13. Specifically, we prepared test samples of the gas sensor 3 which have a common outer diameter  $D2$  of 9mm and outer diameters  ~~$D2$~~   $D1$  of different values and measured the response rates of the test samples in a manner similar to the above. Test results are illustrated in a graph of Fig. 10. The graph shows that the response rate increases as the difference between  $D1$  and  $D2$  (i.e.,  $D2-D1$ ) increases.

Please replace the paragraphs appearing at page 13, lines 2 – 13, with the revised paragraphs:

The inner cover 1 has a gentle curvature ~~200~~ beneath the straight side wall 11 around the gas holes 13 and 14. The straight side wall 11 has a diameter that is uniform over a length thereof. The gentle curvature ~~200~~ defines a conical shape of the top portion of the inner cover 1. The distances  $L1$  and  $L2$  are 0.5mm and 2mm, respectively.

The gentle curvature ~~200~~ works to facilitate formation of a flow of gas directed from the top end to the base end of the inner cover 1 along the side wall 11, thus enhancing ease of entrance of the gas into the inner cover 1. Other arrangements are identical with those in the first embodiment, and explanation thereof in detail will be omitted here.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 13, with the revised paragraph:

The head portion of the laminated sensing element 36 is, like the sixth embodiment, installed in the cover assembly 31. The cover assembly 31 has, like the tenth embodiment, a triple-walled structure in order to enhance the ability of the cover assembly 31 to protect the sensing element 36 from water contained in the gas to be measured. Specifically, the cover assembly 31 includes a second inner cover 54 retained outside the inner cover 1. The second inner cover 54 is made of a hollow cylinder 541 with a bottom and has a diameter that is uniform over a length thereof.

The second inner cover 54 has gas holes 542 which are located closer to the base end of the cover assembly than the gas holes 13 of the inner cover 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 17, with the revised paragraph:

The cover assembly 31 includes a second outer cover 55 retained outside the outer cover 2. The second outer cover 55 is made of a hollow cylinder with a bottom and has a diameter that is uniform over a length thereof. The second outer cover 55 has gas holes 550 formed at the same location in the longitudinal direction thereof. The gas holes 550 are located closer to the base end of the cover assembly than the gas holes 20 of the outer cover 20. The gas holes 550 are substantially aligned with the gas holes ~~20~~ holes 13 in the longitudinal direction of the cover assembly 31.